Renewable Energy has been constituted at every district to oversee the implementation of Renewable Energy Programmes in the district. In addition, 20th August—the birthday of the late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi is being observed as **'Rajiv Gandhi Akshya Urja Diwas'** to focus attention on the deployment of renewable energy systems and devices in rural as well as urban areas. The aim is to provide **"Gaon-Gaon Bijli, Ghar-Ghar Prakash"** meaning electricity in every village and light in every home.

Bio-mass resource atlas for India

1539. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project "Bio-mass resource atlas for India" is being undertaken;

(b) by when the project wil be completed; and

(c) the benefits that would accrue out of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes Sir. a project for development of Biomass resource atlas has been awarded to Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who will develop the atlas jointly with Indian Space Research Organization and the National Informatics Centre

(b) It is expected that the initial version of the Biomass resource atlas would be available by the end of 2005. The final version of the atlas, suitably adapted for web application is expected to be ready by March, 2007.

(c) The main benefit of the atlas will be the facilitation of a systematic exploitation of the biomass resource in various States of the country for energy applications. The atlas would enable potential entrepreneurs, planners, financial institutions, etc., to identify favourable locations for biomass based energy generation projects.

New power projects in Rajasthan and Punjab

1540. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether new power projects are proposed to be started in Rajasthan and Punjab; and